

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE NHCOC MEETING OF May 14, 2015

Members or Representatives in Attendance:

Barkhamsted, Donald Stein	Canaan (Falls Village), Patricia Allyn Mechare
Burlington, Theodore Shafer	Colebrook, Thomas McKeon
Cornwall, Gordon Ridgway	Goshen, Robert Valentine
Hartland, Wade Cole	Litchfield, Leo Paul, Jr.
New Hartford, Daniel Jerram	Norfolk, Susan Dyer
North Canaan, Doug Humes	Roxbury, Barbara Henry
Salisbury, Curtis Rand	Sharon, Brent Colley
Torrington, Elinor Carbone	Washington, Mark Lyon

Others in Attendance:

Lee Sawyer, CT DEEP	Aron Steeves, ConnDOT
Katherine Kieffer, Salisbury	Jessica Fowler, Sharon
Neil Ryan, ConnDOT	Steve Silver, Eversource
Steve Burham, Eversource	Bernie Harrington, LWV
Richard Lynn, NHCOC Staff	Jocelyn Ayer, NHCOC Staff
Darlene Krukar, NHCOC Staff	Media Representatives

Call to Order, Opportunity for Public Comment. The meeting held at the NWCT Chamber of Commerce was called to order at 10:06 am.

Preparation of an Updated Solid Waste Management Plan for Connecticut and Opportunities for Local Input. Lee Sawyer stated that the Solid Waste Management Plan update is required by state statute and DEEP is seeking local input in preparing the plan. He stated that the final plan is targeted for release in July 2016. He gave a power point presentation. The state generates 3.2 million tons of solid waste per year. He stated that currently 86% of solid waste stays in the state. Product Stewardship has programs in place for recycling e-waste, paint, thermostats, and mattresses and they are looking at a program for tires. There is a high percentage of organic/food scrap waste in the MSW stream. There are three facilities for composting organic material and three more looking to get permitted. DEEP is seeking a 60% diversion rate. They will be looking at ways to improve recycling which is currently at a 25%-35% rate. DEEP will have a draft report by November 2015 and plan to begin implementation by January 2016. Curtis Rand expressed support for increased efforts at composting in the State. Jessica Fowler concurred and encouraged DEEP to provide grants to facilitate composting. Mark Lyon also expressed support for more composting and stated that composting programs in rural areas will likely need a different approach than in urban areas. Additional discussion followed.

Overview of ConnDOT District 4 Paving Program for the Northwest Hills in 2015. Aron Steeves gave an overview of the paving program on state roads in the Northwest Hills. He

stated that there are 13 or 14 million dollars in the program this year which will allow paving of 47 miles of roadway in the 53 towns of District 4. He stated that this funding level should be doubled to properly maintain the roadway network. At the current funding level, a 33 year cycle of paving is being provided in the state. The roads are not lasting as long as the bond life. ConnDOT requested \$75 million for paving in the State and were provided \$57 million of bond funds. Aron distributed handouts that listed the roads that are going to be paved in 2015 and 2016. ConnDOT rides all the roads each year and rates them for paving priority. He stated that the State's milling contracts have changed and the contractor now owns the millings from jobs but they can be requested by towns. Gordon Ridgway inquired if District 4 has a 5-year pavement plan and Aron responded that ConnDOT had this in the past and they hope to have in the future, but it is not currently available. Wade Cole expressed concern about ConnDOT's paving practices, expressing particular concern about Rte 20 in Hartland that was repaved 3 years ago and is already in bad shape. He also expressed concern about the treated salt that ConnDOT is using as it appears to be having a major adverse impact on road condition. Barbara Henry expressed concern about ConnDOT's treated salt as well in that it appears to be causing equipment to rust at an accelerated rate. Discussion followed.

#### Regional Transportation Planning.

- a. *Request by ConnDOT for Endorsement of Proposed Amendments to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Pertaining to Installation of Road Weather Information Systems, Replacement of Bridge over Wigwam Reservoir in Morris, Replacement of Existing Light Fixtures with LED Fixtures, and Bridge Inspections.* Neil Ryan reviewed the STIP amendments. On a motion by Mark Lyon and seconded by Leo Paul, all the above listed amendments were unanimously endorsed.
- b. *Authorizing Resolution for FY 2016-17 Unified Planning Work Program.* On a motion made by Doug Humes and seconded by Leo Paul, the authorizing resolution for the FY 2016-17 Unified Planning Work Program was unanimously approved.
- c. *Request for NHCOCG Endorsement of Elderly and Disabled Van Applications Submitted under ConnDOT's Section 5310 Program.* On a motion made by Barbara Henry and seconded by Bob Valentine, COG members unanimously endorsed, with equal priority, the Elderly and Disabled Van applications.
- d. *Input for Preparation of State Freight Plan.* Rick Lynn stated that the Department of Transportation is preparing a State Freight Plan and they are looking for contact information for any freight stakeholders in the local communities. ConnDOT is looking for a list of up to 30 stake holders per region. Rick Lynn asked if COG members had any suggestions as to who should be included, to please contact Rick or Jocelyn. Discussion followed.
- e. *Support/Endorsement of \$10M TIGER grant for Berkshire Rail Line Upgrades.* Jocelyn Ayer reviewed the application and stated that the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will be applying for the grant and is looking for an endorsement letter from the NHCOCG. On a motion by Doug Humes and seconded by Leo Paul, COG members unanimously endorsed sending a letter of support for the TIGER grant.

Future Role of the Northwest CT Economic Development Corporation in Coordinating Regional Economic Development with the Northwest Hills COG and Northwest CT Chamber of Commerce. Jocelyn Ayer stated that Doug Parker is retiring from the NW Economic Development Corporation at the end of the year. She stated the EDC has brought the private and public sectors together. It has played a key role in developing and implementing the CEDS plan. The executive committee of the EDC is looking at how to move forward with CEDS implementation without the volunteer service of Doug Parker. Jocelyn Ayer has asked consultant Jason Giulietti to attend our June meeting to give us an update on the CEDS implementation.

Summary of Meeting with Northeastern CT COG Representatives. Rick Lynn summarized the recent meeting with NECCOG representatives and distributed a sheet that listed some of the shared service programs that the NECCOG and NHCOC implement. Don Stein stated that the NECCOG coordinates a number of programs that the NHCOC does not, and vice versa. Member towns in NECCOG pay an additional fee for some of these services. After discussion, it was agreed that the NHCOC should continue to collaborate with the NECCOG on shared program opportunities.

#### Administrative Items.

- a. On a motion by Leo Paul and seconded by Doug Humes, the NHCOC minutes from the April 9, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.
- b. On a motion by Sue Dyer and seconded by Pat Mechare, the NHCOC financial statement for 3/2015 was unanimously approved.
- c. On behalf of the nominating committee, Tom McKeon presented the following proposed slate for NHCOC officers for FY 2014-2015: Don Stein, Chairman; Mark Lyon, Vice-Chairman; Sue Dyer, Secretary; Bruce Adams, Treasurer, Pat Mechare, At-Large Member; and Leo Paul, Jr., At-Large Member. There were no nominations from the floor. On a motion made by Barbara Henry and seconded by Doug Humes, the Council members unanimously voted to accept the slate as presented and to close nominations.
- d. Rick Lynn reviewed the proposed NHCOC budget for FY 2015-2016. On a motion by Pat Mechare and seconded by Doug Humes, the proposed NHCOC budget for FY 2015-16 was unanimously approved.
- e. After discussion, on a motion by Sue Dyer and seconded by Barbara Henry, Bob Valentine and Elinor Carbone were authorized to serve as the NHCOC representatives on the Food Hub Feasibility Advisory Committee.
- f. Rick Lynn stated that after talking to the Goshen Building Inspector we might not be in the new COG offices in time for the June meeting. He hopes to have a ribbon cutting at the new offices by the July meeting. If COG members have any suggestions for the ribbon cutting, please let Rick know. Don Stein suggested that a letter be sent out inviting legislators from Hartford to attend.

#### Committee Updates.

- a. *Legislative Committee.* Don Stein stated that he and a few others attended a COST meeting in Hartford yesterday where Senate Bill 1 was discussed. The bill is to address “expansion of sales tax as a way to fundamentally change our reliance on the

property tax”. They are talking about capping the car tax, repurposing PILOTs, holding the towns harmless, and taking a piece of the sales tax expansion and distributing it to the towns (they gave out a table showing how it would be distributed) and giving 10% to the COGs for expansion of services. Mark Lyons stated that it was meant to reduce reliance on the property tax, not add to the town budget. There was discussion on notice in newspapers, MBR reform, prevailing wage, the workers comp bill, and the Governor’s budget zeros out the budget for probate courts.

1. Update on MORE Commission and Legislative Issues of Interest and Concern. Leo Paul stated that the MORE Commission is basically focused on what the leadership wants it to look at. They are taking a close look at policing. The MORE Commission is on recess currently. There was discussion on the discontinuation of roads legislation.

2. Summary of May 6<sup>th</sup> Northwest Hills Legislative Forum in Hartford. Don Stein stated that this meeting went well. There was good attendance by the Legislators.

*b. Recycling Advisory Committee.* Sue Dyer stated that the spring HHW collection day will be held in Falls Village on June 6<sup>th</sup> and asked for volunteers to work the event.

*c. Public Works Equipment Cooperative.* Wade Cole stated that program continues to operate well, but the sweepers are now seven years old and starting to need repairs. The sweepers are in near continual use from March until fall. We should be getting a third sweeper sometime in July. The material screener demonstration will be held soon.

Town by Town Issues and Updates by COG Members. It was decided to table this agenda item due to time constraints.

Other Business as Raised by Members and Adjournment. On a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:11 pm.